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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

TUBERCULOSIS IN TOKIO AND VICINITY *

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JUDGING from statistics, the prevalence of tuberculosis in Japan is much greater pro rata than in America or Europe. Reports from government and reliable private institutions, place the death-rate, exclusive of special classes, at from 25 to 40 per cent.

Among factory workers, milling hands and those leading a laborious and exposed life, such as "rickshaw pullers," street peddlers, etc., the figures range from 55 to 70 per cent. Pleural and peritoneal infections are unquestionably more common in Japan than in the United States.

The bone and joint infections are also very common, and in almost every instance the disease, whatever the seat, seems more resistant to treatment than in America. As a general proposition, it seems correct to state that the Japanese have decidedly *less resistance* to tubercular infection than the average European or American. There are several good reasons to account for this. Before giving them, it is well to state that practically the *whole* population is well informed of the infectious nature of tuberculosis, and fear and general dread of the disease are more apparent than among the general public in the United States. In spite of this fact, the measures taken for its prevention, and modern ideas of fresh air and dietetic treatment are woefully lacking.

Nowhere in Japan is the climate especially bad, and on this, the main island, it is rather better than in many countries where tuberculosis is not so prevalent. Climate would, therefore, seem not to play any very definite rôle as a cause of the disease. The food of the Japanese is poor, and anæmia (a very common disease after thirty), stomach diseases, and poor nutrition are also common.

The Japanese way of building houses makes them very easy of ven-

* Read at the International Congress on Tuberculosis, Washington, D. C., October, 1908.

tilation, but strange to say, no advantage is taken of this fact, and their houses at night are wretchedly ventilated. This lack of fresh air at night, and on cold days, when houses are close-shut, plays an important part in the prevalence of tuberculosis in Japan. The density of the population makes infection easy, and the general poverty of the people prevents adequate curative measures being taken by individuals infected.

Although the public conscience is well aroused to the dangers of tuberculosis, it is very inadequately and carelessly instructed as to the proper modern measures of prevention and cure.

Mrs. FLORENCE KELLEY, secretary of the National Consumers' League and well known to nurses, desires it to be made known that she has been placed on a committee with Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt to secure a monster petition of women, to be addressed to Congress, and asking for the extension of the franchise to the women of the United States by an amendment to the Constitution.

It is desired to have not less than a million names and there are only three months to complete it as it is to be sent to Congress on Lincoln's birthday.

Mrs. Kelley asks for volunteers who will receive blanks and secure names of women over 21 years of age in their localities. Offers may be sent to Mrs. Kelley at 105 E. 22nd Street, New York City, or to Miss Dock, 265 Henry Street, New York City.

JOTTINGS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS

A VENERABLE and historic figure has recently disappeared from earth—Mother Mary Aloysius, one of the sisters from an Irish Roman Catholic convent who accompanied Miss Nightingale to the Crimea more than fifty years ago. Her book, "A Sister of Mercy's Memories of the Crimea," is delightful, and her own work there was distinguished for its excellence. She had Miss Nightingale's warm regard, and Queen Victoria gave her the Royal Red Cross. Mother Mary died at the age of 94, and two other sisters who also went through the Crimean campaign are still living.

Kai Tiaki, the New Zealand nurses' journal, urges nurses not to think their education complete at the end of their training. It has only begun, and nurses are advised to continue it by some good special work in hospitals before going out into the world.

It is probable that a national nurses' association may soon be developed in New Zealand, formed by the union of several local groups.

Two nurses have been appointed as assistant inspectors of hospitals under the immediate supervision of Miss Maclean, who holds the position

under the government formerly held by Mrs. Neill. The new assistants will inspect private hospitals, and the work of midwives.

A nurse inspector of hospitals has also been appointed in Western Australia, where all hospitals are under governmental control (Government Charities Department). She will also inspect babies' homes. This position is a new creation.

Our dear Sister Agnes Karll is still far from strong. Also her cares remain heavy. Some time ago she had the chagrin of losing a considerable bequest for invalided sisters, because of the dilatoriness of the government in allowing their charter. Now another and smaller bequest must yield up a 5 per cent. tax, from which she has been unable to free it. The older invalided sisters' needs are often cruel and a heavy burden on Sister Agnes' heart and mind.

The German Nurses' Journal has been having a series of articles on "The Woman Movement."

Dr. Lande has written an excellent article on "Military Nurses in Other Countries," for *La Garde-Malade Hospitalière*. It is illustrated by photographs of a Swiss Red Cross nurse, and a charming group of Japanese Red Cross nurses.

Mlle. Granger, one of the Tondu hospital graduates, has been appointed supervising nurse in the women's division of the Civil and Military Hospital in a town of Algiers.

General Picquart, the French Minister of War, has lately visited the hospital at Cambrai, where one of the graduates of the Protestant Hospital at Bordeaux is in charge.

Nosokomos has been translating the chapter on Kaiserswerth and the Deaconess Movement from the "History of Nursing" by Nutting and Dock. It looks very well in the language of Holland.

From the *Bulletin Professionnel des Infirmières et des Gardes-Malades* we learn that the request made by the Women's Societies of the Red Cross to the Minister of War, to allow their members who had taken certain courses of theoretical teaching to have three months' practical work in military hospitals or the military wards of civil hospitals, received a favorable reception in the War Department and has been referred to the medical chiefs of the hospitals. It appears that it may be optional with them to make the necessary arrangements with the Red Cross societies.

This is likely to retard the real nursing movement, and Dr. Lande has discussed the subject in a strong paper which we will note more fully next month.

The seventy-five junior nurses admitted last year to the beautiful new school on the grounds of the Salpêtrière have now been advanced to their senior year and seventy-five more juniors admitted. The administration has had 400 applicants for the vacancies, and is much pleased with the results of the reform.

British institutions that received prizes from the Tuberculosis Congress were the Brompton Hospital for the best hospital exhibit for the treatment of advanced cases of tuberculosis—\$1000; the Brompton Sanatorium, for the best exhibit of the treatment of curable cases, \$500; and the Women's Health Association of Ireland, for the best evidence of preventive work, \$500.

Signs are that the British nurses will soon gain the registration for which they have fought so long and so valiantly. Mr. Sydney Holland has been dislodged from point after point of vantage and he also seems to have exhausted his ammunition. Sir Henry Burdett has long since been left dead upon the field of battle.

LAST month there was only time to mention the newly formed Provisional Committee of the Canadian National Nurses' Association, whose successful inauguration is described in full in *The Canadian Nurse* for November. The meeting of the Society of Canadian Superintendents of Training Schools in October was an inspiring one in every way, and the climax was reached when Miss Snively, the president, who has long been vice-president for Canada in the International Council of Nurses, launched the new association, composed of eighteen provincial or alumnae societies, with the superintendents added, "to promote mutual understanding and unity" between the Canadian associations, and to affiliate with the International Council and so join hands with the nurses of all countries. We rejoice greatly, and warmly congratulate Miss Snively, who was elected president of the Provisional Committee, on this new achievement. The Canadian nurses will be received with open arms next summer in England.

THE woman's movement goes on gloriously abroad. Most impressive of all is the revolt of the women of Turkey from their bondage, and their dramatic bursting into freedom. They have discarded their veils, are forming clubs, lecturing, writing, and speaking. It is conceded that the women have brought powerful aid to the revolutionary or "Young Turkey" party.

In England a woman has been elected mayor of a town, Doctor Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, of Aldeburgh. Miss Dove, of High Wycombe, was nearly elected also, but lost narrowly.